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## Bruce Weinberg

### "Social Interactions with Endogenous Associations"

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007

Noon

Mershon Center for International Security Studies  
1501 Neil Ave.

See a [streaming video](#) of this event. This streaming video requires RealPlayer. If you do not have RealPlayer, you can [download it free](#).

Bruce Weinberg joined the Department of Economics at The Ohio State University after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. One line of his research focuses on the effects of technological change and industrial shifts on the wage distribution. A second line of research studies the determinants of youth outcomes and behavior, with emphases on the effects of family background and neighborhoods. A third line of work studies how age and geography affect creativity. Weinberg is also a Research Associate at the Institute for Labor in Bonn, and a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Mass.

The paper that Weinberg will present develops a model of social interactions with endogenous association. People are assumed to invest in relationships to maximize their utility. Even in a linear-in-means model, when associations are endogenous, the effect of macro-group composition on behavior is non-linear and varies across individuals.

The paper also shows that larger groups facilitate sorting. Using data on associations among high school students, the paper provides a range of evidence consistent with this model. Individuals associate with people whose behaviors and characteristics are similar to their own. This tendency is stronger in large groups. The paper also shows that behaviors vary within and between macro-groups in the way predicted by endogenous association.



**Bruce Weinberg**  
Associate Professor of  
Economics  
The Ohio State  
University

Columbus, OH 43201  
Phone: 614.292.1681  
Fax: 614.292.2407  
Email: [mershoncenter@osu.edu](mailto:mershoncenter@osu.edu)